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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

SUBJECT Volkspolizei Signal School

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1. Training of newly recruited Volkspolizei commenced about 14 days ago at the Signal School in Dessau-Kochstedt. There are 236 trainees, of whom about 60 are officer candidates. They are mostly youths 17 to 19 years old, and mostly were radio mechanics in civilian life.
2. Enlargement of the Signal School is planned at the end of this year. The maximum capacity now is about 300 men, because part of the space is occupied by a Volkspolizei signal alert troop; this which will be given quarters elsewhere. More space will be provided for the technical training and the signal equipment will be increased. A special unit was set up at the end of August in which already experienced radio operators are trained in operating direction-finding apparatus. This DF apparatus, two of which have been installed in BMW cars, was delivered by the Radiowerk Stern at Rochlitz. In this unit, 12 men at once are trained in an eight weeks' special course, to be assigned later to sending stations.
3. Up to the present, the Volkspolizei has about 600 trainees not belonging to Volkspolizei alert units available for its signal stations and is eagerly occupied in converting from wire to radio communication. The service personnel at this time is enough for the eight signal control stations, but the technical equipment appears not to be fully adequate. A 200-watt sender requisitioned by the school at Kochstedt has not been delivered because, it was said, the control stations had to be supplied first. Three 20-watt senders like those used by single Volkspolizei service stations, have been delivered from a depot in Berlin-Köpenick.

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